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TAGS: [KNNP](#) [ENRG](#) [ETTC](#) [MNUC](#) [PARM](#) [TRGY](#) [IAEA](#)  
SUBJECT: ITALY TO SUPPORT USG POSITION AT NSG MEETING

REF: SECSTATE 115509

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Elizabeth Dibble  
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) On 5 November, Italian MFA Counselor for Nuclear Affairs Roberto Liotto informed Econoff that the GOI would support the US position at the November 19 meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) Consultative Group. The GOI agrees on the need for greater controls on transfers of enrichment and reprocessing (ENR) technology and is satisfied by the US-backed criteria-based approach, according to Liotto. The GOI still has concerns about the more subjective criteria being open to abuse, according to Liotto, but the GOI will put those objections aside if the other participating governments are in agreement. So long as any new NSG rules are consistent with EU law concerning free markets and the EURATOM treaty, the GOI will join the consensus, said Liotto.

¶2. (C) Comment: Though Liotto said that the GOI would "work in a constructive way, perhaps even suggesting marginal changes (in the text)," the GOI seems content to let others take the lead and accept whatever is generated. According to GOI interlocutors the GOI supports the USG on improved ENR controls. But we think the GOI is not likely to expend political capital to assuage Canadian concerns, which are likely to be the principal impediment to consensus. End Comment.  
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